

10 RF 1243

EG&G ROCKY FLATS

EG&G ROCKY FLATS, INC.

ROCKY FLATS PLANT, P.O. BOX 464, GOLDEN, COLORADO 80402-0464 • (303) 966-7000

March 22, 1990

90-RF-1243

R. M. Nelson, Jr.
Manager
DOE, RFO

TREATMENT AND RELEASE OF SURFACE WATER FROM ROCKY FLATS PONDS A-4, B-5, AND C-2

The recent blizzard and resultant snow melt has added millions of gallons of water to the terminal ponds. The ponds are fulfilling their detainment function, which allows assessment of water quality prior to discharge. However, as a result of the sudden inflow, Pond B-5 reached a level of concern on March 15, 1990. To alleviate this concern, transfer of water was initiated to Pond A-4 with notification of interested parties through your offices and ours. The transfer successfully alleviated concerns about dam safety, but continuing inflow to the ponds necessitates arrangements for discharge. Also, the cities indicate releases should be made prior to April 1, to prevent interference with ditches that will be used to fill their reservoirs beginning on or about that date.

A major effort has resulted in placement and start up testing of available treatment technology to prepare for treatment that might be required prior to pond discharge. Carbon treatment and filtration units are in place at Ponds B-5 and A-4 and will be in place at Pond C-2 by March 27, 1990.

Activated carbon treatment will be used to remove organic contaminants and the filtration will be used to effect reductions in the radiochemical contaminants in the pond water, if required. We do have the concern that the filtration units may not deliver practical volumes for a discharge and that soluble radionuclides will not be removed. Testing of Pond C-2 water found total "gross beta" above the new standards even after 0.5 micron filtration. We also are concerned about the significant volume of waste filters that will be generated if a pond must be fully filtered before discharge. Only Pond C-2 appears to require this treatment according to all of our analytical data.

We have worked with your staff, the State of Colorado, and cities to plan for water discharges. A test of the treatment system was performed at Pond B-5 and samples collected by all interested parties. Discharge of that pond should be initiated after the analyses for gross alpha, gross beta, triazines, VOCs and total suspended solids from that

DIST	ETC
Alhoff, F.H.	
Allen, J. H.	
Arundame, A.	
Barrera, D. W.	
Barns, L. R.	
Barnes, G. E.	
Bodwin, R.	
Bryant, T. J.	
Baker, E. H.	
Bersn, J. M.	X X
Brov, W. A.	
Brester, J. R.	
Chickney, K. M.	X X
Chen, J. B.	
Chen, R. E.	
Chen, T. H.	
Channon, W. M.	
Chen, D.	
Chen, B. B.	
Chen, E. R.	

Chen, D. H.	
Chen, G. J.	
Chen, L. K.	
Chen, J. L.	
Chen, R. B.	
Chen, R. L.	
Chen, D. M.	
Chen, G. J.	
Chen, E. R.	
Chen, R. L.	
Chen, H. L.	
Chen, R. N.	

Corres. Control	X X
Contract Admin	
Hoty, R. M.	X X
Hobby, E. P.	X X
Levin, M.	X X
Hawley, J.	X X
McGovern, J.	X X
Reynolds, J.	X X
Arnold, J.	X X

Classification:	
Unclassified	X
Confidential	
Secret	

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3/22/90
In Reply, Use No.

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TLC

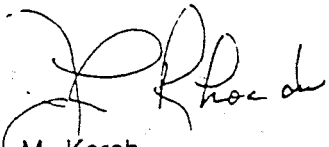
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DATE: 7-12-93

R. M. Nelson, Jr.
90-RF-1243
March 22, 1990
Page 2

sampling are completed and assessed. Data collected to date indicate that only carbon treatment will be required during discharge. We will collect samples of treated water after the first carbon treatment tank during discharge to assure proper operation. A second carbon treatment tank will be used in conjunction with the first and provide another level of protection against release of contaminants exceeding the new standards. There are plans to accomplish the same type of treatment system tests of Ponds A-4 and C-2 in the near future.

We believe the efforts taken by RFP to meet pending standards have demonstrated good faith effort. We support your efforts to reach agreement with the State of Colorado on specific mechanisms for pond treatment and discharges.


for J. M. Kersh
Associate General Manager

FDH/lmc

Original and 1 cc - R. M. Nelson, Jr.